(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) in a memorandum submitted to Government on September 1, 1986, has alleged *inter-alia* that pressures and considerations are coming into play in the matter of appointment of representatives on Boards of the banks. However, some press statements have been made by the office bearers of AIBOC alleging political interference in the working of nationalised banks.

(c) and (d) No such news-item seems to have been published in the 'Times of India' dated 14th October, 1986 in this regard.

Loan melas

47. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' on the 14th October, 1986 regarding loan melas; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study report on Credit Camps, to which the news-item refers, is under examination by the Government.

News-item regarding India's diamond link with South Africa

48. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding India's diamond link with South Africa which appeared in the 'Newstime' of the 11th October, 1986;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes. Sir.

(a) and (c) It is clarified that India does not import diamonds from South Africa. Indians have been purchasing diamonds in London and in Antwerp where rough diamonds from all the world over are sold.

Ban on carrying of cameras to Tajmahal

49. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have banned carrying of cameras by the tourists while visiting Tajmahal at Agra; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is the reaction of the tourists thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Carrying of cameras inside the mounment of Tajmahal is not allowed on security considerations, except in individual cases on merit subject to certain conditions.

P. M's. visit abroad

50. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited a number of East Asian countries during the month of October, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries visited by him and the nature of discussions held between the Prime

Minister and the Heads of those countries which he visited; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister paid official visits to Indonesia, Australia New Zealand and Thailand from 13—20 October 1986. Bilateral, regional and international matters were discussed between the Prime Minister and the Heads of Government/State of the countries visited.

(c) These goodwill visits promoted wider understanding and the consolidation of political and economic relations between India and the countries visited.

Visit of King of Jordan to India

51. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of discussions held between the King of Jordan and the Indian leaders during the King's recent visit to India; and

(b) whether any agreement on socio-economic ties has been signed and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The King of Jordan's discussions with Indian leaders covered a general review of bilateral and international issues of common concern and ways and means of enhancing and diversifying bilateral cooperation between India and Jordan in the economic, commercial and technological fields.

(b) No agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit.

Seizures by the customs authorities

52. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of seizure of gold, foreign currency, etc. effected by Customs authorities from border check-posts, airports and other places during the last three years and particularly during the last four months; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to curb the activities of smugglers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The total value of contraband goods seized indicating the value of gold and foreign currency seized during the years 1983 to 1986 (upto September) and during the months of June to September, 1986 is furnished below:—

(Value: Rs. in crores)

Year/period	Gold	Foreign currency	Total value of contraband goods seized
1983	4·18	1·72	89·92
1984	10·24	1·93	101·09
1985*	51·89	4·81	195·63
1986* (Upto September)	38·95	3·31	163·76
June to September, 1986	15·40	1·72	73·98

*Figures are provisional.